LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 133
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President: Lee Pfautch Editor: Angela Broadhead

SPRING EVENT IS MAY 6

Let's make May 6 one of the biggest, brightest, most memorable occasions in our Society's history. That's the date for the special events--the plaquing of the Old Lafayette School, now the core of the Methodist Church at 955 Moraga Road, and the marking of the two towering deodar trees in front of the church, plus the local house tour.

The ceremony at the church begins at 12:30 P.M. to be followed by a self-guided tour of homes within Lafayette. Members of the pioneer McNeil family, historical society members, church and local dignitaries will all participate in the placing of a bronze plaque on the old school and at the base of the deodar trees. Historical research on the old school was done by Mrs. Fern P. Davis and the ceremony was coordinated by Mrs. John Helmick. Refreshments will be served at the church and the public is invited.

A self-guided tour of homes and historic landmarks is scheduled from 1:45 to 4:15 P.M. Enclosed with this Bulletin are TWO TICKETS for the tour. Each ticket contains a map and directions for visiting the homes open on this tour. Also noted are some of the landmarks and historically significant buildings still remaining within the city. A donation of $2.50 per person is requested (adults and young adults only, please) and an envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Please bring these tickets with you on May 6. Additional tickets are available from Mrs. George Finger (283-2203). Donations are tax deductible. If you wish more information please call Mrs. Paul Broadhead (283-3303) or Mrs. Gary Willcuts (283-0706).

A large enthusiastic committee helping the Chairman, Mrs. Willcuts, has been Mrs. Robert Fisher, Mrs. William Hobbs, Mrs. Alvin Medau, Mrs. Homer Schreiber, hostesses; Mrs. Dale Webster, hospitality; Mrs. Emil Anderson, decorations; Mrs. Wayne Merryman, tickets; Mrs. John Kimball, publicity; Mr. Paul Broadhead, Mr. John Marchant, Mr. Paul Ogden, program design.

Society members are urged to attend the afternoon's festivities and to bring at least one friend. This is a wonderful way to visit spots not normally open to the public and a great way to introduce your friends to the scope and activities of the Lafayette Historical Society. The tour is limited to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda Historical Society members and their friends.

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NEW EXHIBIT FEATURES SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN - PAST AND PRESENT

"School Bells and Inkwells--a look at Lafayette's early schooldays" is the Historical Society's current display in the LandMarks Room at the Lafayette Federal Savings and Loan Association on Mt. Diablo Blvd. Presented with a touch of humor and whimsy, the exhibit recreates a classroom at the turn of the century complete with period desk, books and pictures on the wall. The pictures center around Miss Jenny Bickerstaff who came to Lafayette as a little girl and lived in the same house on Mt. Diablo Blvd. for 85 years until it was torn down in 1963. Miss Jenny taught school in Lafayette in 1898-1902 and then in other county schools until her retirement in 1936.

In the large glass case are hansom photographs of a present day classroom capturing the various activities and interests of the modern elementary school program and its students. Bright, colorful drawings made by students studying Lafayette history liven the entire exhibit.

A fine collection of antique bells--Jenny's classroom brass bell with wooden handle, tiny silver bell, and a finely crafted silver bell on a stand are on the shelves. The inkwells are of a wide variety and design displaying beautiful glass and silver complete with pens, holders and trays.

The exhibit, which will remain in the LandMarks Room until July 10, was put together from contributions from Chairman, Mrs. Wayne Merryman, Mrs. Terry's 4th grade class, Mr. Rod Jolliffe, 6th grade teacher, Mr. Danny Boyle, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Brieuc Bouche, Mr. Paul Broadhead, Mrs. John Helmick, Mrs. Lloyd Holton, Mrs. George Finger, Mrs. Dale Webster, Mrs. Roy Williams, Mrs. Herbert Breckling, Mrs. Joseph Gregory.

SPECIAL THANKS

After more than three years and 19 life-size exhibits, Joan Merryman is relinquishing her job as display chairman for the historical society. Replacing her in the demanding post is Mrs. Herbert Breckling, well-known artist and member of both the Lafayette and Moraga Historical groups.

The usual "thanks" seems hardly adequate to cover the many hours Joan devoted to researching possible collections and memorabilia, acquiring permission for use of the items, and designing and actually setting up each of the displays in the LandMarks Room. Our deepest appreciation,Joan, from all of us and from the many citizens of lafayette who have stopped to gaze at your handiwork that has so brightened our downtown scene and promoted the cause of Lafayette and its history.